

Application No. 09/670,424
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

New claims 30-32 have been added based on (now canceled) claims 1, 2 and 4, and the first embodiment of the present invention described in the specification.

New claim 33 has been added based on (now canceled) claim 5, and the third embodiment of the present invention described in the specification.

New claims 34-36 have been added based on (now canceled) claims 10-12, and the fourth embodiment of the present invention described in the specification.

New claims 37 and 38 have been added based on (now canceled) claims 13 and 15, and the fifth embodiment of the present invention described in the specification.

New computer program claim 39 (corresponding to new claim 34) has been added based on (now canceled) claim 16.

New claim 40 has been added based on the second embodiment of the present invention described in the specification.

And new computer program claims 41 and 42 have been added corresponding to new claims 30 and 34.

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No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that new claims 30-42 be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of USP 5,915,025 ("Taguchi") and USP 5,963,642 ("Goldstein"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed with respect to new claims 30-42.

According to the present invention recited in each of new independent claims 30, 33, 34, 37, and 39-42, the keys used in encrypting the database comprise (at least) a column key corresponding to at least one data segment group specified by at least one memorized item title, and a plurality of different row keys. And according to the present invention recited in each of the new independent claims, the database is encrypted by encrypting: (i) the data segments of the at least one specified data segment group, using the corresponding column key, and (ii) data segments of at least one data segment group corresponding to item titles other than the memorized item titles, in units corresponding to the records, using the different row keys of the respective records.

That is, the columns (fields) of the database which are desired to be easily searchable are encrypted by the same column key, regardless of the row (record). Other data, which may be

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more sensitive than the data of the easily searchable fields, is encrypted by row using a respective row key. And it is respectfully submitted that neither Taguchi nor Goldstein discloses, teaches or suggests these features of the claimed present invention.

By contrast, it is respectfully submitted that Taguchi merely discloses a data encryption method in which different encryption keys are used for data of different attribute types. According to Taguchi, attribute types associated with the data of concern include addresses, data address areas, data segments and so on of the subject data, and different encryption keys can be used for subject data portions when they are contained on different pages. However, it is respectfully submitted that Taguchi does not disclose, teach or suggest using two types of keys to encrypt data segments based on whether the data segments are included in particular columns.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that Goldstein also clearly does not disclose, teach or suggest the column and row keys of the claimed present invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that even if Taguchi and Goldstein were combinable in the manner suggested by the Examiner, the structural features and advantageous effects of the claimed present invention would still not be achieved or rendered obvious.

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In view of the foregoing it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in each of new independent claims 30, 33, 34, 37, and 39-42, as well as each of new claims 31, 32, 35, 36 and 38 respectively depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over Taguchi and Goldstein, taken singly or in combination under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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